

NEW SURVEY OF SINAI.

We copy the following interesting letter from the London Athenaeum. R. E. CAMP, WADY FEIRAN, Feb. 2, 1869.—On the 12th of December winter fairly broke upon us in our camp, at Jebel Musa, with a desperate storm of wind, and occasional showers of rain and sleet. Some of the gusts were very violent, and one terrific squall brought the marquee down with a sudden crash, in spite of all the care which had been taken to secure it. Wilson and I, who had been working inside, suddenly found ourselves struggling amid a confused mass of tent poles and fluttering canvas, books, papers, and camp-stools, from which we only emerged in time to see some of the effects of the Sinai expedition being whirled by the blast up the Convent valley, with Arabs and servants in hot pursuit. Most of them, I am glad to say, were ultimately captured; but some loose sheets of laborious calculations gallied deluded all attempts to run them down, and were hopelessly lost among the cliffs of Jebel Musa. The whole affair was intensely ludicrous, but annoying nevertheless, and the behavior of Salem, our chief Bedawi guide, was far from soothing under the circumstances. That hardened individual, on seeing the tent blown down and the two captains struggling in the wreck, made no attempt whatever to stir from his seat by the camp-fire; he merely puffed a little faster at his tobacco, and muttered, with the superciliousness of a true Bedawi, "From the Lord." But his meditations were rudely disturbed by the cook, with a severe punch in the ribs, and we found an hour's useful employment for him, fetching large rocks to lay upon the tent-pins.

By next morning the storm had left its traces upon the landscape. The cliffs and boulders, washed of their summer coating of dust, looked clean and fresh, and showed out with colors deeper and more brilliant than that of the higher hills, now streaked with snow, and the peaks of the Ras Sufsafeh and neighboring mountains, seen alternately in mist and sunshine, and through light showers of driving snow, formed strikingly different pictures. The ascent of the mountain, which had been so long and toilsome, was now especially trying; and we floundered about in deep snow and upon ice-coated rocks underneath, till the legs and lungs of the whole party were pretty severely tried. As its peak is the most central, and probably also the most lofty, so is the view from Jebel Katarina among the finest in the whole peninsula. From its high and freezing stand-point, though the day was far from favorable, and clouds frequently concealed large portions of the landscape, we could plainly see the two arms of the Red Sea, and the thin, blue line of Africa beyond them; on the other hand, the great limestone desert of the Tih stretching far away northward, and the geography and geology of the entire granitic region of the Sinai spread out as in a model below us. The peaks of Serbal, to our disappointment, were no more than a white, misty haze, and we only peeped at us now and then for a few moments out of her veil of mist; however, in the course of three hours' patient watching, we succeeded in making all necessary observations from this, one of the most important points of the survey. We descended at a jog-trot, a path which, though it occasionally cost us a heavy propper, was certainly the best in the long run, and saved us time and fatigue, and in fact enabled us to reach camp in two hours from the summit.

Our route sometimes lay through scenery of the most beautiful description; a portion of Wady Nasb, which was explored by the pundit and myself, and added to our sketch survey, was especially striking, as presenting a remarkable exemplification of those highly-colored dykes, traversing the granitic and schistose rocks which are seen here and in many other parts of this country in considerable numbers, but nowhere in such abundance and perfection as in Wady Nasb. There, the naked landscape is streaked with countless lines of porphyry and diorite, varying in color, and of all shades of blue, from a few inches many feet, and coursing for miles over the country towards every quarter of the compass. A grander and scarier scene striking feature is seen in the huge granite boulders, with smooth open-shaped top and immense hollows weathered in their under sides, which lie piled one on another in wild confusion in the tributary gorges of this valley. Many of them were of such enormous size as to admit of easy and upright walking underneath, and in the spaces between them as they rested one on another, and there was one in particular which I have not seen elsewhere, and which, in its size, was the size of St. Paul's. While the pundit and I were out surveying and collecting names, Wilson, accompanied by Holland, ascended Jebel Masraf for the work of the general triangulation. Our sheikh, "Eid," in the absence of the Arab, was proceeding into the desert, and induced to carry their instruments, though an Arab of the valleys, and not of the mountains, he stuck to his task like a man, and survived to reach the summit; but, to judge from the ghastly, ironical grin which, on depositing his load, he exclaimed, "Mr. Hooper, you had better not go to the mountains; no one can have been more astonished at this feat than himself. Since then we have had to dismiss him. We never were much pleased with him; he was noisy and childish, and had no influence with the Arabs, and at last behaved so carelessly and so negligently that it was impossible to keep him any longer. But the separation was not effected without a struggle. He first rushed at us all in arm, and seized our hands to kiss them. There was for a little experience the sensation of being roared at, and then he fell back, and, as if obliged to submit to the infliction. His next proceeding was to lie down on the ground and implore the pundit to beat him. But the pundit was at dinner, and told him to wait till he had finished, and then he would beat him well; and, though our sheikh expressed warm thanks for his gracious promise, he contrived to make himself scarce for the rest of the evening. We are now in the hands of Sheikh Hassan, the chief of the Towara Arabs, a quiet, grave creature, who does his work well and fairly, and makes no noise or trouble.

On our journey from Jebel Musa hither, we passed through the pass of Nubb Haway, and down Wady Solaf. Grand as the Ras Sufsafeh had seemed when viewed from the plain of Er Sahab, there were other and more distant points of the pass, from which, if possible, it looked grander still. We were very tired and longed to seek to admire its stately form and outlines, standing alone against the sky, clothed in warm tints of purple and indigo, and with every feature distinctly seen in the clear soft light of perhaps the very finest day that we have witnessed during our stay in the peninsula. The somewhat too close proximity of Jebel Bostan to its western slope detracts a little from its true height and massive proportions, and slightly mars an effect which, but for this, would be absolutely perfect. In all other respects, it is a most beautiful mountain, and its summit is quite apart from the north-west. It is a little higher than the summit of the sheer unbroken line.

Towards the lower end of Wady Solaf we passed the mouth of Wady Umm Kahlil, the scene of the great catastrophe of last winter, when a large party of Arabs encamped on a low eminence in the centre of the valley's mouth were one night swept away by a flood so sudden that they had not even time to escape to the mountains, barely a hundred yards off. These great floods or "seils" are of rare occurrence, but terrible in their effects when they do take place. Sudden and excessive rains, falling on the naked rocks of this region, which possess no absorbing power and are utterly destitute of soil, pour with frightful rapidity down the hill-sides and valleys, sweeping everything before them. The "seil" I speak of was almost unprecedented in magnitude. Holland was encamped near here at the time, and had a narrow escape. I am afraid we shall not have the good fortune to witness one this year, as the season for heavy rains is now pretty well over.

Our camp here is pleasantly situated at the junction of Wady Alyat and Wady Feiran, and close to the oasis of Feiran, which terminates just at this point. You may imagine the pleasure with which, after having been so long accustomed to none but the sickly green of desert herbs and shrubs, we welcomed the sight of a perfect forest of date, palm, and tamarisk, acacia, and sid trees, extending for some two miles down the valley, with a cool, clear stream rippling cheerily under its shade. This oasis, like all other green spots in the Sinai Mountains, owes its existence to a contraction of the Wady, and consequent arrest of the usual rapid and unimpeded drainage.

Jebel Serbal is about four miles from the camp. In massive ruggedness and in boldness of feature and outline this mountain unquestionably presents an aspect unequalled by any other in the peninsula; and, though not absolutely the highest, it has a great command over the surrounding country than any we have so far seen; unfortunately, there is hardly a single point in the valleys near its base (on this side at all events) which affords a comprehensive view of the mountain, but only by ascending some of the neighboring hills that the whole range of its magnificent peaks can be seen at once; and there is no plain anywhere in the vicinity suitable to the assembling of a large concourse of people in sight of any portion of the mountain. It is only by ascending some of the neighboring hills that the whole range of its magnificent peaks can be seen at once; and there is no plain anywhere in the vicinity suitable to the assembling of a large concourse of people in sight of any portion of the mountain. It is only by ascending some of the neighboring hills that the whole range of its magnificent peaks can be seen at once; and there is no plain anywhere in the vicinity suitable to the assembling of a large concourse of people in sight of any portion of the mountain.

The difficulty of ascending Serbal has been much overstated. We went up by a hunter's track, longer though less precipitous than that by the Wady Abu Hamed, usually taken by travellers; but in descending we followed the latter ravine. There was nothing appalling in either climb—certainly nothing to terrify in the ascent, and the view from the summit, though not so extensive, is perhaps more pleasing and varied than that from Jebel Katarina, embracing, in addition to the usual grouping of desert, mountain, and valley, a new view of the sea, the great plain of El Kaa, bathed in heat, stretched from the coast to within a few miles of the back of Serbal, and the green oasis of Feiran winding eastward through the hills.

The few showers which have fallen during our stay have already produced a marked effect upon the vegetation. Trees and shrubs are now budding, and look fresher and greener than before; and in valleys usually parched and arid blades of grass are springing up between boulders, and little ferns and creepers coming to life in their shade.

On Thursday, the 4th, we commence a wandering life, intending to devote the whole of our three remaining months to the general survey and examination of the western part of the peninsula. H. S. PALMER.

We may add to the information contained in Mr. Palmer's notes, that he describes himself as having made a series of copies of the famous rock-inscriptions, and expresses a confident belief that he has found a key to the language and meaning. We hope this very good news may prove to be true.

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THEY ARE A FIRST MORTGAGE SINKING FUND BOND, FREE OF UNITED STATES TAX, SECURED BY ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND ACRES OF CHOICE LANDS.

A DOUBLE SECURITY AND FIRST-CLASS INVESTMENT IN EVERY RESPECT. Yielding in Currency nearly Ten Per Cent. Per Annum.

Gold, Government Bonds and other Stocks received in payment at their highest market price. Pamphlets and full information given on application to JAY COOKE & CO., NO. 114 S. THIRD STREET, E. W. CLARK & CO., NO. 35 S. THIRD STREET.

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Reading R. R. Sixes, Clear of State, United States, and Municipal Taxes. Pennsylvania and New York Canal and R. R. Company Seven Per Cent. First Mortgage Bonds.

HER MAJESTY CHAMPAGNE. DUNTON & LUSSON, 215 SOUTH FRONT ST.

THE ATTENTION OF THE TRADE IS solicited to the following very Choice Wines, &c., for sale by DUNTON & LUSSON, 215 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

STERLING & WILDMAN, BANKERS AND BROKERS, No. 110 S. THIRD ST., Phila., Special Agents for the Sale of Danville, Hazleton, and Wilkes-Barre Railroad FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS.

W. H. MABREY, Removal—PRICES REDUCED. No. 235 ARCH Street, Where he will be happy to see all, and sell all goods at reduced prices, and defy all competition in price and quality.

WOODLANDS CEMETERY COMPANY.—The following Managers and Officers have been elected for the year 1869.

CITY WARRANTS BOUGHT AND SOLD. C. T. YERKES, Jr., & CO., No. 20 South THIRD Street, PHILADELPHIA.

FINANCIAL.

GLENDINNING, DAVIS & CO. NO. 48 SOUTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

GLENDINNING, DAVIS & AMORY. NO. 2 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK, BANKERS AND BROKERS.

B. K. JAMISON & CO., SUCCESSORS TO P. F. KELLY & CO., BANKERS AND DEALERS IN Gold, Silver, and Government Bonds, AT CLOSEST MARKET RATES.

SMITH, RANDOLPH & CO., BANKERS, Philadelphia and New York. DEALERS IN UNITED STATES BONDS, AND MEMBERS OF STOCK AND GOLD EXCHANGE.

LEDYARD & BARLOW HAVE REMOVED THEIR LAW AND COLLECTION OFFICE TO No. 19 South THIRD Street, PHILADELPHIA.

A. & H. LEJAMBRE HAVE REMOVED THEIR Furniture & Upholstering Warerooms FARREL, HERRING & CO., CHAMPION SAFES, NO. 629 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

C. L. MAISER, MANUFACTURER OF FIRE AND BURGLAR-PROOF SAFES, LOCKSMITH, BELL-HANGER, AND DEALER IN BUILDING HARDWARE, NO. 484 RACE STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

PROPOSALS. OFFICE OF PAYMASTER UNITED STATES NAVY, No. 425 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 15, 1869.

T. & J. A. HENKELS, HAVING REMOVED TO THEIR ELEGANT STORE, No. 1002 ARCH Street, Are now selling FIRST-CLASS FURNITURE at very Reduced Prices.

DIE FEINSTEIN MEUBEL ARRANGIRT IN DER GANZEN ETAGE FRITZ ZUR ANSICHT, TEPPICH UND GARTENEN ENBEGRIFEN. GEORGE J. HENKELS, MEUBEL FABRICANT, THIRTIETH AND CHESTNUT, PHILADELPHIA.

LEGAL NOTICES. IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and return the final account of JOHN E. COLAHAN, late Guardian of C. E. FROVILLIE (G. E. McCANN), ward coming of age January 16, A. D. 1869, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment, on TUESDAY, April 14, A. D. 1869, at four o'clock P. M., at the office of JOHN E. COLAHAN, Esq., No. 224 WALNUT Street, in the city of Philadelphia.

NOTICE.—THE UNDERSIGNED would call the attention of the public to his NEW GOLDEN KATIE FURNACE. This is an entirely new invention, it is so constructed as to once commence itself to general favor, being a combination of wrought and cast iron, and is so constructed, and so arranged, that it is perfectly self-cleaning, being no pipes or drums to be taken out and cleaned. It is arranged with upright flues, so as to produce a large amount of heat from the same weight of coal than any furnace now in use.

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FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE

CHAMPION SAFES! PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 15, 1869. Messrs. FARREL, HERRING & CO., No. 629 Chestnut street.

Gentlemen:—On the night of the 13th inst., as is well known to the citizens of Philadelphia, our large and extensive storeroom valuable stock of merchandise, No. 902 Chestnut street, was burned.

The fire was one of the most extensive and destructive that has visited our city for many years, the heat being so intense that even the marble cornice was almost obliterated.

We had, as you are aware, two of your valuable and well-known CHAMPION FIRE-PROOF SAFES; and nobly have they vindicated your well-known reputation as manufacturers of FIRE-PROOF SAFES, if any further proof had been required.

THE ONLY SAFES EXPOSED TO THE FIRE IN CALDWELL'S STORE WERE FARREL, HERRING & CO. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 15, 1869. Messrs. FARREL, HERRING & CO., No. 629 Chestnut street.

Gentlemen:—On the night of the 13th inst. our large store, S. W. corner of Ninth and Chestnut streets, was, together with our heavy stock of wall papers, entirely destroyed by fire.

WE HAD ONE OF YOUR PATENT CHAMPION FIRE-PROOF SAFES, which contained our principal books and papers, and although it was exposed to the most intense heat for over 60 hours, we are happy to say it proved itself worthy of our recommendation.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 15, 1869. Messrs. FARREL, HERRING & CO., No. 629 Chestnut street. Gentlemen:—I had one of your make of safes in the basement of J. E. Caldwell & Co.'s store at the time of the great fire on the night of the 13th inst.

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AUCTION SALES.

M. THOMAS & SONS, NOS. 139 AND 141 SOUTH FOURTH STREET. Sale at the Auction Rooms, Nos. 139 and 141 South Fourth Street.

HANDSOME HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PIANOS, CARPETS, HANGINGS, &c. On Thursday, April 15, at 9 o'clock, at the auction rooms, by catalogue, a large assortment of superior household furniture, comprising handsome walnut parlor set, covered with black, red, and hair cloth; walnut chamber suite; cottage chair suite; superior library and dining room furniture; fine French plate mirrors; 2 superior rosewood 2 octave piano-fortes, made by Decker Brothers and Schuler; hand-made carpets, bookcases, and a large number of hand-made, extension, centre, and bouquet tables, china and glass ware, beds and bedding, fine hair mattresses, superior office furniture, cabinet-makers' hardware, &c. &c. Also, choice diamond ring.

ESTATE OF JOHN LONGSTREET, deceased. Executors' Sale.—Very Valuable and Choice Collection of RUBY, EMERALD, DIAMOND, &c. On Saturday Morning, 12th inst., at 11 o'clock, at the residence of the late Joshua Longstreet, deceased, by catalogue, the entire large collection of extra valuable jewelry, including 38 Azaalis, 200 Camellias, Estralyas Cactus, Cycus Revolutus, 100 Dahlias, and a very large number of very fine and very valuable plants.

GREEN HOUSES, SASH, WALKER, &c. Large quantity of green-house sashes, double and extra green-houses. May be seen two days previous to sale.

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